

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1383  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Levi, *et al.*)

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**Election Law - Transfer from Slate to Candidate - Campaign Finance Report**

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This bill specifies that, if a slate is formed after the State Board of Elections (SBE) has sent notice of the filing date for the campaign finance reporting period in which the slate is formed but before the conclusion of the campaign finance reporting period, the slate must file a campaign finance report for the reporting period on the applicable filing deadline if it makes transfers in a cumulative amount of more than \$6,000 to the campaign finance entity of one of its members before the conclusion of the reporting period. The State Board of Elections is not required to provide notice of the campaign finance report required to be filed under the bill.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not expected to directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** “Slate” means a political committee of two or more candidates who join together to conduct and pay for joint campaign activities. Two or more candidates that have established separate campaign finance entities (political committees) may form a slate, and a candidate who has established a campaign finance entity may join a slate. State law limits the amount of money a campaign finance entity can transfer to another

campaign finance entity during a four-year election cycle to \$6,000, though the limit does not apply to a transfer between or among a slate and the campaign finance entities of its members.

For each election in which a campaign finance entity participates, it generally must file campaign finance reports at various times prior to and after the primary and general elections. The reports must contain information required by SBE with respect to all contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the campaign finance entity during a reporting period. Annual reports generally must also be filed on the third Wednesday in January.

The first campaign finance reporting period for a campaign finance entity is the period from the date of organization of the campaign finance entity through the seventh day before the day the next campaign finance report is due (or in the case of the report due on or before the second Friday preceding an election, through the preceding Sunday). Subsequent campaign finance reports cover the period from the closing date of the previous campaign finance report through the seventh day before the day the next campaign finance report is due (or, as mentioned above, through the preceding Sunday for the report due on or before the second Friday preceding an election).

SBE must notify each campaign finance entity of each campaign finance report required to be filed. The notice must be provided by first class mail at least 10, but not more than 20, days before the filing date for each campaign finance report.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections, State Prosecutor's Office, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 14, 2010  
mpc/mwc

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